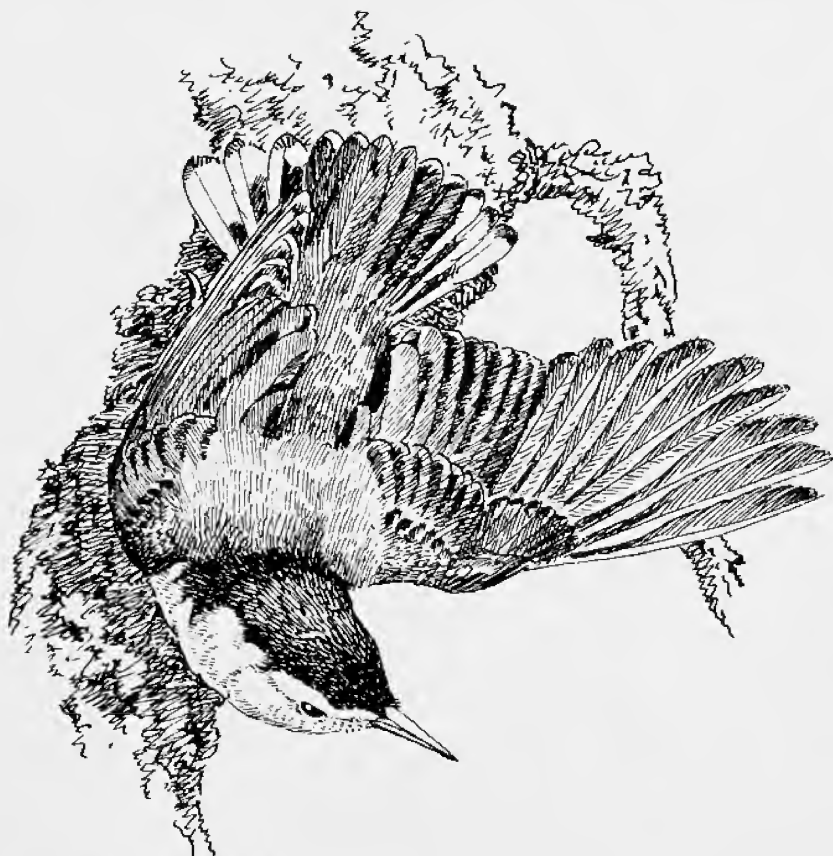


IOWA BIRD LIFE



David Plank 1981

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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Naturalists' Bookplates

FRED J. PIERCE
WINTHROP, IOWA

A few generations ago, the better-class American home required a library to complete it. A special room, with spacious table, big easy-chairs, and shelves filled with sets of standard literature and reference books, created a status symbol of beauty and erudition.

We have read about a man who left walls in one room for bookshelves only to find that the allotted space was too narrow. He remedied this by sawing the standard sets in half with the title-backs of the books facing out on the shelves and glass doors permanently nailed shut. The library look was retained, but the half-books served no purpose except ornamentation. However, most home libraries were useful and were the pride of their owners.

This was also the era when it was customary to show ownership of the books by placing bookplates inside the front covers. Many of the bookplates were elaborate, with family coat-of-arms as the central feature and border accessories to suit the tastes of the owners. Bookplate designs showed ingenuity and imagination; most were artistic examples of the engravers' skill.

Different life styles in passing years, combined with a trend to smaller, more compact houses, have changed the library concept. Books are still prized and collected, but emphasis is now on specialization. The writer is glad to say that he has seen many valuable collections of ornithological and natural history books — small libraries of fine books providing a wealth of reference material and ownership satisfaction. It is also noted that the custom of identifying book owners by distinctive bookplates has been continued.

The writer admits to having been a collector of many things during his lifetime: stamps, coins, books, autographed letters, and others. Without any concentrated effort and without thinking he was collecting, he put the bookplates he received into a separate file. This was incidental to his bookselling, which was carried on for many years. When looking over these bookplates, he found that he had accumulated 180 of them. Arranged alphabetically in an album, they made an interesting display of how his naturalist friends and customers had chosen to identify their books. The possibilities of bookplate collecting, like stamps, are almost limitless, but even a small specialized collection can furnish diversion and perhaps some accomplishment.

As a matter of related interest, a brief description of some of the bookplates in the writer's recently assembled collection is given here.

Durward Allen: Design including prehistoric skull, pine cone, raptor's foot, head of owl, Indian arrowhead.

Earl Brooks: Robin, steam train in the distance, other decorations.

John Burroughs: "The Study" at Riverby on the Hudson River.

Henry Boardman Conover: Retriever bringing in a duck.

Leon J. Cole: Chimpanzee sitting on a pile of books and contemplating a human skull in its hand.

Ian McTaggart Cowan: Bighorn ram.

Ruthven Deane: Passenger Pigeon in a woodland scene, a pile of books and coat-of-arms.

Joseph S. Dixon: Deer at rest.

Roldon Philip Dressler: Camera, notebook, outdoor scenes.

Joe Dvorak: Bobwhite, Flicker, country road.



Steve Eabry: Man (sitting on a high dock) who says: "If you will excuse me, I have an appointment with myself to sit and watch the tide come in."

George Eastman: Man sitting in easy-chair in front of fireplace with shelves of books beside him.

George W. Emerson: Wagon hitched to the Polar star; telescope and book as side pieces.

W. O. Emerson: Books on table, bird in bush outside the window, scenic background.

John Harwood Evans: Sleeping man on a pile of books, his dream being depicted as bad things happening in cartoon style, with these words: "May this befall him who does not return this book."

Frederick W. Haecker: Map showing Missouri River, shield with White-throated Sparrow, river towboat "Jean Marie," and Penny Black postage stamp of England.

Rowland Gibson Hazard: Long line of penguins, with the words, "Whence, whither, wherefore."

Wesley Reinhold Hiller: Flock of Pintails landing in a quiet pool.

Joseph J. Hickey: Ducks in flight, by F. L. Jaques.

Laurence M. Huey: Fox and two species of western quail.

Stanley G. Jewett: Peregrine Falcon.

Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr.: Roadrunner.

Charles Atwood Kofoid: Book shelves and oceanography specimens.

Aldo Leopold: Spruce Grouse.

Ronald F. Labisky: Ruddy Duck.

Frederick C. Lincoln: Flock of Wild Turkeys.

Edwin A. Mason: Green-winged Teal.

Robert A. McCabe: Two ducks in flight.

R. Allyn Moser: Harris' Sparrow, medical insignia, broken temple columns.

Robert Cushman Murphy: Elephant Seal.

Olin Sewall Pettingill: Mountain scenery.

Karl Platth: Peacock in full display.

A. W. Schorger: Spruce Grouse.

Charles and Elizabeth Schwartz: Peregrine Falcon.

Walter E. Scott: Squirrel on tree limb.

Frederick E. Skiff: Elaborate design — hunting dog and gun, mountain stream, open book with legend, "Old books are best."

Alexander Sprunt, Jr.: Flamingos.

George Miksch Sutton: Reproduction of his grandfather's bookplate.

John Eliot Thayer: Owl beside books and lighted candle.

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology: Passenger Pigeon.

L. R. Wolfe: Large bird of prey.

I. O. U. Fall Meeting, 1981

MARY LOU PETERSEN

234 McCellan Blvd.

DAVENPORT

The fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held in the Quad-Cities on September 5 and 6, 1981. It was hosted by Peter and Mary Lou Petersen.

The group gathered at Salem Lutheran Church in Moline, Illinois for an excellent evening meal. Following the meal, President Ross Silcock introduced the

head table and then called upon Richard Hollis of Iowa City to give the report of the bird-line committee. The report was very thoroughly compiled and explained the format for the possible bird-line including the costs involved. The initial costs involved in setting up a state-wide bird-line is in the range of \$500-\$700 covering the first year and will be funded by private funds, not I.O.U. dues. Those people interested in using the bird-line will fund it. There were no questions after the report.

The group then drove the short distance to the Deere-Wiman House. There the group spent some time touring the gardens and the house. The house has 98 framed prints from the first American printing of Audubon's *Birds of America*. The spectacular collection is strikingly arranged in the rooms of the second floor of the grand old house built by Charles Deere in 1873.

The group met in the carriage house lecture hall for the evening's entertainment. Peter Petersen of Davenport gave a short presentation on "Winter Identification of Meadowlarks." Using study skins, he pointed out the characteristics he uses to differentiate Eastern and Western Meadowlarks in the field in winter.

The slide fest followed with only three photographers participating. Peter Petersen showed some slides of birding done last spring in Louisiana and Texas. Tom Kent followed with slides of a birding trip this past July in southeast Arizona. Tom's slides of birds were quite nice as he was using his new 700mm Celestron lens. He had some interesting shots of our illustrious president too. Homer Rinehart followed with slides of birds taken from his and Noreen's banding experience. It was a treat to have Homer's slides once again. Business and other organizational obligations have kept the Rineharts away from I.O.U. meetings too frequently. President Silcock had Peter Petersen explain where to meet the following morning for the field trips and then dismissed the group for the evening.

Sunday morning dawned clear and cool. The field trips ventured forth to Wildcat Den State Park, Cone Marsh, and Eldridge, Pine Hill Cemetery and Credit Island. The morning's birding did not seem too spectacular aside from a much studied possible Long-toed Stint, but when all groups reported at the compilation following the noon meal at Credit Island the total was 116 species. This is a respectable fall total. Peter Petersen compiled the day's list following the meal. President Silcock thanked the hosts and announced that the spring meeting would be held in Ames on the second weekend in May, 1982. The meeting was adjourned with many returning to Eldridge to photograph the "stint" which accommodated by allowing a close approach. This bird proved to be a Least Sandpiper when all sources were checked out.

Birds seen on the Field Trips, September 6, 1981

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Golden Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning

Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Screech Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, "Traill's" Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Song Sparrow. — 117 species.

Additional species recorded Saturday only — Long-billed Dowitcher, Caspian Tern, Great Horned Owl, Least Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush and Cape May Warbler.

Registered Attendance — 47

Ames: Hank and Linda Zalatel.
 Bettendorf: Ted and Eloise Pfeiff.
 Boone: David Newhouse.
 Cedar Falls: Miriam Pfeiff.
 Cedar Rapids: Beryl and Pat Layton, Lucile Liljedahl, Roberta Oppedahl.
 Clinton: Stuart and Valeria Wilson.
 Davenport: Gerry and Marilyn Aanes, Lewis Blevins, Peter and Mary Lou Petersen.
 Des Moines: Esther Dugan, Jean Frost.
 Estherville: Dennis and Belva Hendrickson, Harold, Katie and Sallie White.
 Indianola: Jim Sinclair.
 Iowa City: Richard Hollis, T. H. Kent.
 Malvern: W. Ross Silcock.
 Marshalltown: George and Vera Crouther, Norman and Jean Eige, Homer and Noreen Rinehart, James and Grace Wignall.
 Montezuma: Darwin Koenig.
 Muscatine: Allan C. Hahn.
 Pocahontas: Raymond Cummings.
 Waterloo: Francis L. Moore, Robert Myers.
 Moline, Illinois: Clark Scott.
 Prospect Heights, Illinois: William and Mary Kay De Baets.
 Rock Island, Illinois: Larry and Judy Linder, Marcella Campbell.

Reporting Observations of Birds Seen in Iowa

THOMAS H. KENT
211 Richards Street
IOWA CITY, IA. 52240

This paper was written in response to inquiries as to how to report and document birds seen in Iowa. It is intended to be a guide for both new and experienced Iowa birders. The first section serves as an orientation for new birders. The second section gives details for submitting field reports. The third section discusses how to document a rare sighting. James Sandroock helped me understand the types of information a new birder needs, Michael Newlon made many contributions to the documentation section, and members of the Records Committee reviewed the Field Reports Form, the Documentation Form, and the manuscript. Reprints and forms will be made available through the Treasurer of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

METHODS OF SHARING BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN IOWA

Over the years, informal and formal channels for reporting unusual birds have developed. Some of these are:

Notifying an active birder in the area. There are at least 50 and probably 150 very active birders in the state. They are knowledgeable of the seasonal occurrence, identification, and habitat of Iowa birds. The inexperienced bird watcher's best opportunity to share and to learn is by calling one of these local experts. One should neither be afraid of making an incorrect identification nor be offended if someone disagrees. Skepticism is in the nature of bird watching! If you are correct, you will get credit; if you are wrong, you will learn from the experience. But remember, if you share a bird with someone else, it is that person's responsibility to be dubious until the bird is "checked-out." When you notify someone else of an interesting bird, be prepared to describe what you saw and to give very specific directions on how to get to the bird. If you should spot a real rarity, the word will spread quickly across the state once it reaches one of the active birders. Although there is currently no organized system for notifying birders of rare finds, the word usually spreads among the local group and then to groups in other parts of the state. For example, in November 1980, Ruby Berridge of Solon identified a Curve-billed Thrasher at her feeder and contacted Mike Newlon at the Zoology Department in Iowa City. Within a week or so over 100 birders had come to see this most famous bird. A telephone rare bird alert system is currently in the planning stage.

Becoming an active member of a local group. Those who bird actively in an area get to know each other and may bird together or encounter each other in the field. Some of the larger cities have adult education courses in ornithology. These serve as a good introduction to birding and birders in the area. There are also a number of bird clubs and Audubon societies in the state and many have scheduled field trips open to any one who wishes to participate. Contact a local expert to find out what is available. The inexperienced birder may not be immediately accepted into the local group. On the other hand, most birders are friendly and anxious to share information when encountered in the field or when you call them. Do not

expect them to call you about a rare bird until they have seen you a number of times and are confident of your interest and dedication to chasing rare birds. As far as reporting goes, there are usually one or more persons in an area that reports to the Field Reports Editor of IBL. These people report all significant birds they have seen and may report your findings if they are confident of the identification and judge the finding significant. So the beginning active birder can report through one of these regularly reporting local experts. One should not be offended if this person selects only your most interesting and definite observations.

Field reports. Up until 1961 active birders reported their most unusual findings in the form of notes and articles in IBL. At that time it was deemed desirable to collect more information so that the distribution of Iowa birds could be better defined. Under the leadership of Woodward H. Brown, the Field Reports section of IBL was born. Since then birders have been sending their significant observations to the Field Reports Editor four times a year. The editor collates and selects from the original reports to compile the Field Reports for the season. This data is our major source of knowledge of the distribution of Iowa birds today. Anyone may submit records to the Field Reports Editor. The second section of this paper contains guidelines for submitting reports. The beginning active birder may initially find it helpful to submit reports through one of the regularly reporting local experts in order to get feedback on the appropriateness of selections. Anyone who identifies a very rare bird should document it and send the documentation form to the Field Reports Editor. Instructions for documenting are found in the third section of this paper.

Seasonal reports to American Birds. At the national level, *American Birds* publishes four seasonal reports of bird sightings. These are reported by regions. Iowa belongs to the Middlewestern Prairie Region which includes Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. The information from Iowa is obtained from the Field Reports Editor including the original data sent in by contributors. This is accomplished under a tight time schedule by having the Field Reports Editor of IBL send his report and the original data to the Regional Editor for Seasonal Reports. The Seasonal Reports are much more selective than the Field Reports. Copies of the original data are retained by the Field Reports Editor for future reference.

Christmas Bird Counts. There are over 35 established CBC's in Iowa and each has a compiler. All interested birders may participate in any CBC by contacting the compiler or other organizer of the count. Any day within a defined period in the last two weeks of December may be selected for the all day-count. The objective is to survey all the birds within a circular area 15 miles in diameter. The compiler prepares two reports, one is sent to the CBC Editor for publication in IBL and the other to *American Birds*.

Nest cards: Another type of field data that can be reported is information on nests of Iowa birds. In cooperation with Cornell University's North American Nest Card Record Program, Dave Newhouse (Iowa Cons. Comm., Boone, Iowa 50036) and Jim Dinsmore (Dept. of Animal Ecology, I.S.U., Ames, Iowa 50011) can supply interested birders with simple cards to fill out. Information reported includes the species, location of the nest, habitat, nest site, and nest contents. These nest records are most valuable if the nest is visited at least twice. Completed cards are returned to Newhouse or Dinsmore who will keep a copy for use in Iowa and send the completed cards to Cornell University where they are made available for research.

Notes in Iowa Bird Life. The General Notes section of the journal is used primarily to describe rare sightings. For each very rare (accidental) sighting, one

or more of the observers should write a note for publication, giving the circumstances of the sighting and a detailed description of the bird. A discussion of the rarity of the bird may also be included. Notes should be typed in a concise narrative form for publication and sent to the Editor of *IBL*.

Articles in Iowa Bird Life. Articles usually cover a broader topic than notes and should relate to or be relevant to birding in Iowa.

Other journals. Formal research may be published in *IBL* or other journals such as *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Sciences*, *Iowa State Journal of Research*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *Auk*, or *American Birds*.

Birding. Birding is the journal of the American Birding Association (ABA). The ABA was founded in 1969 and is a national organization oriented to the amateur ornithologist. Its journal contains a variety of articles on identification, distribution, listing, books, equipment, and birding hot spots. Members may submit their life list totals (must be at least 500 in ABA area), state list totals (Iowa threshold 180), yearly state lists, and big day lists for annual publication in *Birding*. At present this is the only place for publication of Iowa listing records. The ABA also publishes a complete checklist of the birds of North America which is handy for compiling one's "life list." The ABA list is somewhat controversial because most professionals go by the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of Birds of North America* (1957 Edition with supplements published in *Auk*). The ABA has adopted a slightly different order for species from the AOU, but it is believed that the AOU Committee, an august slow moving body, will eventually adopt these changes. The criteria for acceptability of species are also different. AOU requires specimens for a new species; ABA requires one or more sight records documented independently by a total of three competent observers. ABA generally provides up-to-date information on North American birds and generates a lot of useful information for the amateur birder.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING FIELD REPORTS

The Field Reports section of *Iowa Bird Life* is published in each of the quarterly issues and covers the four seasons: winter (Dec, Jan, Feb), spring (Mar, Apr, May), summer (Jun, Jul), and fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov). Note that summer has only two months and fall has four. This is the case because of the significant migration in August, especially of shorebirds and warblers.

The Field Reports are an edited compilation of 30 to 50 individual field reports submitted by Iowa birders. The current editor (T. H. Kent, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, Ia. 52240) requires that individual reports be received by the 7th day of the month following the close of the season. The reason for this is that the data must be compiled, analyzed, report written, typed and corrected, and mailed to the Regional Editor of *American Birds* by the 15th of the month. This tight schedule also allows *Iowa Bird Life* to publish the report promptly. In fact, Field Reports are much more timely in the Iowa journal than in those of most surrounding states.

Anyone may submit field reports to the Field Reports Editor. There are currently about 30 regular reporters and many more who report irregularly or occasionally.

The contents of individual reports vary from the reporting of a single bird to a list of sightings several pages long. The most important aspect of the contents is that each species cited be identified as to number of birds seen, date seen, place seen, and observers if different from the person reporting. Also, documentations of rare and unusual sightings should be included (see later section for details).

The form of the report is quite important, especially to the editor who must do the reading, compiling, and xeroxing. Readability and copy quality are greatly

facilitated by typing or printing in black ink. Poor handwriting and pencil or colored ink may result in loss of information, mistranslation, and an irritable Field Reports Editor. Xeroxing and compiling (paper shuffling) are much easier when all of the reports are on 8½ x 11 inch paper. Xeroxing and mailing costs are lower when the 8½ x 11 inch paper is used so as to provide the information compactly while maintaining readability. Do not write a separate letter or, worse yet, include a separate note on smaller sized paper. The Editor has little choice but to also xerox the note, as it usually bears directly on the report. Put notes at the beginning or end of the report and keep it to a minimum. If you want to communicate with the Editor about other matters write a separate letter that does not deal with bird observations.

The format of the report should follow the standard form or a facsimile thereof. An example of a completed form is shown in figure 1. This includes at the top the observer's name, address, the season, and year. Names should be given as you want them printed. Middle initials are helpful to the Editor for selecting abbreviations when two or more people have the same first and last initial. The Editor prefers to identify people by their own first name rather than by title or spouse's first name. The address should include state and zip code. In the past some Iowa records have been attributed to other states by the regional editor. The seasons are winter (give both years involved), spring, summer, and fall.

The body of individual field reports should consist of a list of species (including number of birds, date, place, and, if desired, other observers) in checklist order. To determine "check list" order, use the current Iowa Ornithologists' Union Field Checklist or the I.O.U. Checklist of Iowa Birds (Brown, W. H., Halmi, N.S. and Vane, R.F., 1977, *Iowa Bird Life* 47:31-40; a second edition will be published next year), or The A.B.A. Checklist (1975, second edition to be published shortly).

Any additional information or detail about a sighting should be inserted directly below the listing and utilize the full line or as many lines as needed. Thus, when the Editor analyzes and compiles the information from your report it is all in a convenient order and all information on one sighting is together. The only exception to this procedure occurs when there is a separate complete documentation of the sighting. In this case, the sighting should still be listed along with number of birds, date, and place as well as a note "see documentation."

The number of birds will be assumed to be a count if the number is small (ten or less) and an estimate if the number is large. If you counted a large flock indicate "(counted)." You may also indicate male, female, juvenile, or adult after the number if appropriate, e. g. for Bald Eagles one might list "5(3 ad, 2 imm)." If the same bird or flock was seen on several days, indicate separate dates separated by commas or inclusive dates (seen each day) separated by a dash, e. g. "5, 7, 9 May" has a different meaning than "5-9 May." Be as specific as appropriate in listing the place and avoid local jargon names for locations. If possible use officially recognized location names such as parks, lakes, sloughs, towns, or counties with appropriate modifiers such as near, north of, etc. It is very helpful for the editors to know the county, especially if the location is not well known. If you bird primarily in one county, a practical solution is to designate the county if outside your own. For birds that are not very habitat specific, the county alone is often sufficient to define the location. For example, "n. Johnson Co." is more generally useful than "Tom's Pond." Most future use of your records will be based on county location. Other observers may be listed for the sighting, but this should be done with discretion. The purpose of listing other observers should be to identify a person who found the bird, who identified the bird, or who is an experienced observer thus lending credibility to the observation. Avoid listing inexperienced

FIELD REPORTS FORM for submitting seasonal observations of Iowa birds Page 1 of 1

Season: Summer Year: 1981 Name and address (print or type) Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Other observers (name, city):
Tom Staudt, Iowa City
Eldon Bryant, Akron
Doug Harr, Larchwood

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Temperatures and rainfall were	normal.		Shorebird habitat was scarce due to high water.
Western Grebe	6	29 Jun	Rush L., Osceola Co. Two adults were feeding 4 half grown young. Adults were of dark phase. See separate documentation.
Least Bittern	4	30 Jun	W. Hottes L., Dickinson Co. DH female stayed on nest with small young while we photographed from a few feet
Swainson's Hawk	2	5 Jun	e. Chickasaw Co. -- 2 locations TS
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	1 Jul	Dickinson Co. -- early
Willet	14	28 Jun	Wilson I. S. P., Pottawattamie Co. -- early
Solitary Sandpiper	4	29 Jun	w. Plymouth Co. EB -- early
Dunlin	1	5 Jun	Cardinal M. TS -- late
Wilson's Phalarope	2	5 Jun	" " "
Forester's Tern	20	30 Jun	W. Hottes L., Dickinson Co. DH -- several nests
Western Kingbird	8	28 Jun	Harrison Co.
" "	15	29 Jun	w. Iowa -- Harrison to Lyon Cos.
Say's Phoebe	4	29 Jun	w. Plymouth Co. EB
Two adults and two full sized young --			photographed and recorded.
Sedge Wren	25	5 Jun	Hayden Pr. and Cardinal M. TS
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1 Jun	n. of Keosauqua, Van Buren Co. -- recorded
Summer Tanager	1	1 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua S. P. -- imm. male
Henslow's Sparrow	1	5 Jun	Hayden Pr. TS -- territorial, photos, tapes
As you can see I have been having fun with my new camera and parabolic reflector attached to a tape recorder.			Best regards and good birding. TK
P. S. There were two other reports of Western Grebes in n. w. Iowa, but I didn't get sufficient details to pass on these sightings.			

Figure 1

observers who happened to be on the field trip. Use "m. ob.", meaning many observers, to indicate that a large group or series of people saw the bird. Editorially, it is difficult to handle large numbers of names and names of people unfamiliar to the Editor. If you are reporting a bird someone else saw, be sure to make this clear. Further, do not report such second hand observations unless you are positive they are correct. The record will be credited to your reputation when the editor uses "fide" following your name. Fide means "to entrust to." If you are reporting for one or more observers and use their names frequently, list their full names at the beginning of the report and use their initials after the appropriate sightings. If they are not persons likely to be known to the Editor, also give their addresses at the beginning of the report.

There are several methods used to arrange the observations in checklist order. If the list is short, this task is not very difficult. Simply refer to a copy of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Field Check List and make the entries in that order. If the list is long, one should first identify the relevant sightings and then rearrange them in the proper order. One method is to go from your daily log or trip list and simply write down each relevant sighting on scratch paper. Then go through the scratch list and transfer the entries to a report form in order, crossing out the entries on the scratch list until they are all gone. This is laborious, but it works. Imagine what the editor's job would be like if he had to do this for every list besides his own. Another method used by some is to keep a personal species list. After each trip, significant observations are transferred to a species log, so that at the end of the season the relevant observations are already in the correct order for entry onto the report form. This method also requires considerable work, but has some added advantages. One has a continuous personal log of species observations for personal reference. Further, in the log one can identify record early and late dates for the state as well as personal early and late record dates. When entering an observation its importance may be more evident than when summarizing trip lists at a later date. For those who do not keep extensive logs, one can simply make a list of outstanding observations during or after each bird trip and select field report entries from this list.

One other section of individual field reports that is desirable is an analysis of the weather. This is best included as a sentence or paragraph at the front of the report. The Editor needs weather information, particularly from representative areas of the state and especially if they affected the occurrence of birds during the season. Specific as well as general weather information is helpful. Give dates, temperatures, amount of precipitation, storms, etc.

GUIDELINES FOR FILLING OUT DOCUMENTATION FORM

The purpose of "documenting" a sight record is to share unusual sightings with others as objectively as possible. Our knowledge of the status and distribution of many Iowa birds is still incomplete and constantly changing. Documentation is one way we can contribute to the knowledge of Iowa (and US) birdlife. The information provided on the "Documentation Form" will be used in preparing the "Field Reports" and "Christmas Bird Counts" for *Iowa Bird Life* as well as for "Seasonal Reports" and "Christmas Bird Census" for *American Birds*. Documentations are kept on permanent file with the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and with the Regional Editor of *American Birds* for future use.

The Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union will review selected documentations (see *Iowa Bird Life* 50:37, 1980). In general, the Records Committee will review documentations of accidental species, casual and regular species that are difficult to identify, and records of species which are very unusual

in terms of location or time of year (as determined by the Field Reports or Christmas Count Editors). These documentations will be used by the committee to determine the **Official List of Iowa Birds**, the **Field Checklist of Iowa Birds**, and for establishing early and late seasonal records.

Because the documentations will be read by several people now and in the future, it is important that they be in a uniform format and legible even after copying. Documentations should be typed or printed in **black ink** on a standard documentation form or on a separate 8½ by 11 inch **white paper** using the standard headings. An example of a completed documentation form is shown in Figure 2. These documentations have to be duplicated (often several times), so quality of the lettering and page size are quite important to those who have to do the duplicating and reading. You should send the original and keep a copy of the documentation. If you have access to good duplicating facilities, send both the original and one copy.

Completed documentation forms should be sent to the Field Reports Editor of **Iowa Bird Life** (T. H. Kent, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, Ia. 52240). For birds seen in Christmas Counts, documentations should also be submitted to the compiler of the count.

EXPLANATION OF POINTS TO BE COVERED IN DOCUMENTATION

Species and number: Give the common name of the species and how many of the species were seen or heard.

Location and habitat: Give the name of the location if it has an official name; otherwise, give the distance from a well known location such as a park, lake, or city. Also, be sure to give the **county and state**. The state is important because the form will be sent to the Regional Editor of **American Birds** and the county helps if the reader is unfamiliar with the specific location. Also give the specific location in more detail so that another person could reach the same spot, e.g. "evergreen grove at east end of north wing of Lake Macbride." Describe the general nature of the habitat such as lake, river, marsh, slough, pasture, residential area, etc.

Date and time: Give day, month, and year bird was seen. Be sure to include the year! Give hour:minute to hour:minute. If you did not check your watch at the time of the sighting, estimate the time and indicate that it was an estimate, e.g. "10:45 to 11:00 AM (est)."

Observers: Print or type your name, address, and date. Give names of others with you who also studied the bird. Do not include bystanders or those too inexperienced to identify the bird. If possible, have others fill out and submit a documentation. Independent documentation of details adds great strength to a record. Also, list names of others you are reasonably certain saw the bird before or after the time you saw it. Encourage them to fill out a documentation form.

Description of bird: Give size, shape and color pattern in as much detail as possible and practicable. Diagnostic features should be described in more detail than non-specific features. The most important principle is to describe **only what you saw**. Even the best observers will not see everything, especially when the viewing conditions are poor and-or brief. Features not seen should be left out, or stated as "not seen," or "unable to judge" or some other explanation if the feature is of diagnostic importance. Another principle is specificity. Avoid saying "We noted the distinctive face pattern;" instead say "We noted the black forehead, crown, and cheek and the yellow face and its black triangular auricular (ear) patch." The sex and-or plumage (winter, summer or juvenile) should be given somewhere in the description if applicable. Observations can be arranged in order by chronology (the order in which they were seen), anatomic location (bill, head,

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Black Rail How many? 1Location? Cone M., Louisa Co., IA -- 50 yds from west end of dikeType of habitat? marsh with small area of open water covered with algaeWhen? date(s): 29 Aug 1981 time: 9:10 to 9:10 AMWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240others with you: noneothers before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A small jet black bird walked across a 6 ft. wide algae covered area of water and into the marsh grass. I judged the bird to be slightly larger than a House Sparrow, although there were no birds in sight for comparison. The body was chunky.

The shape and manner of walking were those of a rail. I saw nothing but black. There was no color on the bill. I could not make out any chestnut on the nape, any spots on the wings, or any bars on the flank. Legs appeared dark. The bill was not distinct from the head and was short and pointed. The bird appeared to walk on the surface of the algae, but may have been grasping on the few weeds present in the water. It appeared to be feeding but continued walking and disappeared into the marsh grass in about 10 seconds. The dull light and short time interval prevented me from seeing any more detail. The bird was not heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: The shape and behavior was that of a rail, not a blackbird or a mammal. The date is wrong for downy young of other rail species. The bird was not downy and the bill was black. There are no recent records of nesting rails at Cone M.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Dull overcast. 50 yds (by pacing a similar distance). 8 x 40 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Seen once about 1/2 mile from this location in the spring about 20 years ago.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 30 min. this form completed? 2 hr.

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Figure 2

neck, etc.), diagnostic importance, or some combination, depending on what the writer thinks will best convey what was seen. It is best to quote (" ") your field notes and then add additional clarifying details or details omitted while writing the field notes. Documentations lacking immediate field notes will not be rejected, but they will be interpreted in light of possible alteration in observer perception. Records have been accepted based on documentation provided years later, but this certainly is not desirable. It is useful to start the description with overall size and shape of the bird. If possible, the size should be given in relation to another species in the same field of view, e. g. "two-thirds the size of a Robin in the same field of view". Shape is more difficult to describe. One can use generalizations and comparisons when reasonable, e. g. "thrush-like" or "a medium-sized slender thrush." The latter example should be used when the only other species with which it might be confused is also a thrush. A description of the size, shape, and color of the various parts of the bird should include bill, head, neck, breast, abdomen (belly), rump, back, wings, tail, legs, and feet. Most field guides have drawings showing locations of important anatomic features. Learning these will help to make your descriptions more precise. Anatomic designations for wing locations are particularly important for accurate descriptions. It is often useful to enhance the description with a drawing made in the field. Better yet, obtain photographs or a tape recording of the bird to submit with the documentation.

If the bird is heard, be sure to describe the voice. If not, indicate "not heard." Voice descriptions may be comparative or analytical, e. g. "like a Chipping Sparrow but less emphatic and trailing off at the end" or "a rapid series of notes becoming fainter at the end". Avoid using the description in the field guide; it is better to use your own words. Diagrams can be made to show the sequence, pitch, and character of the song.

In addition to appearance and voice, be sure to describe the bird's behavior. Was it sitting, flying, or both? What was its posture, habits, flight pattern, sociability, etc.?

Similar species: List all species that you considered and why you eliminated them. If there were no other possibilities, indicate the features that were diagnostic, e. g. "The size, black and white pattern, long tail and black bill are diagnostic of Black-billed Magpie." This is the discussion section of the documentation where arguments for and against the identification should be made.

Agreement: Did the other observers agree with the identification? Indicate yes, no, uncertain, or not applicable. If no, explain.

Viewing conditions: Describe lighting, distance, and optical equipment used. Indicate degree of cloudiness and amount and direction of light on the bird. This is important because color and fine detail are best seen when the sun is behind the observer. If sunny, indicate relation of sun to you and the bird, e. g. "sun behind and 45 degrees to left of bird." Ideally, metric units should be used for distance, but most of us are more used to feet, yards, and miles. The closest distance or range of distances should be given. If possible the distance should be paced off (one can use an object at a similar distance in another direction for pacing if obstacles prevent direct pacing). The distance between telephone poles is also useful. If distance is a guess, so indicate, e. g. "100 yards (guess)." If measured or estimated, indicate how, e. g. "95 yards (paced)." Indicate magnification of binoculars and/or telescopes used.

Previous experience: If this is a "life" bird so indicate. Otherwise, describe your previous experience with the species and closely similar species.

References and consultations: Ideally, each observer should observe the bird

and then write a description independently before discussing it or looking at a book. This procedure makes the description most objective. However, if the bird remains in sight, the quality of the observation can often be improved by discussing critical field marks and looking at a field guide while making further observations. Once observation ends, a description should be made in a field notebook or on another piece of paper and later copied verbatim on the documentation form. Use " " to indicate that which has been copied verbatim from field notes. One should list all sources used and be sure to distinguish between notes made before and those made after consulting books or other sources. It is well known that perceptions are open to outside influence; this section should be a self appraisal of that influence.

Time of description: Indicate time of field notes and final description in relation to when the bird was seen, e. g. "notes taken within 5 min., copied 8 hours later."

COMMENTS ON DOCUMENTATION

The most difficult aspects of documentation include getting used to documenting, knowing which species to document, making the best observations in the field, making notes immediately, and knowing how to describe a bird.

Getting used to documenting involves believing in the process and having the confidence to have your observations reviewed by others. The beginner will not write as good a description as the more experienced birder. On the other hand, the beginner may make the critical observation necessary to establish an important record. Further, the practice obtained from documenting is essential to becoming a better documentor and is a very helpful technique for furthering one's power of observation. For records that are reviewed by the Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, results and commentary are provided to the documentor. Each member of the committee indicates whether he-she thinks the record is beyond reasonable doubt and provides comments which are often useful to the observer in terms of improving future observations and descriptions. In addition to providing constructive feedback, documentation is generally accepted across the country as the means to advance our knowledge of the distribution of species. An accidental bird in Iowa may, to some, seem unimportant to the knowledge of Iowa birds, but it may be quite important in ascertaining tendencies for extension or regression of the species range.

One should make notes on any bird that is difficult to identify, is rare, or is very much out of season. Later one can decide whether formal documentation is needed. References useful in determining the need for documentation include the following:

Kent, T. H., 1980, Report of Records Committee. *Iowa Bird Life* 50:73. This report indicates species that the Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union has designated for documentation in all instances.

Brown, W. H., 1971, An annotated checklist of the birds of Iowa. *Iowa State Journal of Science* 45:387-469. Reprints are available from the Librarian of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for \$1.00. Brown describes status, distribution, and migration dates for Iowa birds. The information is now dated, but still useful. A new book is being developed which will supercede the information in Brown's annotated list and greatly expand the coverage. No date has been set for publication.

Petersen, P. and Fawks, E.: *Birds of the Quad City Region*. This pocket-sized checklist graphically displays frequency and seasonal distribution of eastern Iowa birds and is useful as a general guide for determining unusual occurrences. Available from Petersen Book Co. for \$1.25 + postage.

Kent, F. W. and Kent, T. H.: **Birding in Eastern Iowa**. Iowa City, 1974. This soft cover book charts the frequency and seasonal distribution of birds observed by the authors over a 25-year period. It is available from Petersen Book Co. for \$7.50 + postage.

The process of documentation does not take very much time, and, unless one is a very active birder, the number of formal documentations per year will be few.

Careful observation is an art requiring discipline and knowledge. The process of documentation teaches one how to be more systematic in observing a bird and with time key observations can be made in a split second. Try describing a common bird without looking at a book! Often we learn to identify a species and later neglect to look at it in detail when we see it. It is useful to study ahead of time the critical differential features between common species and rare species that resemble them. Knowledge of habitat and migration intervals is also helpful in picking out rare or vagrant species.

Some birders have more writing experience than others. This should not inhibit one from writing up a documentation; it's the ornithological details that are important, not the writing style.

It is highly desirable to obtain tangible evidence for rare bird sightings. Tangible evidence includes specimens, photographs, and tape recordings. Such evidence greatly strengthens a documentation. Be sure that the evidence is labeled with the date, place, species name, and collector or observer. Although there are only a few individuals with collectors permits in the state, dead and injured birds sometimes provide the opportunity for obtaining specimens. Specimens should be frozen and then forwarded to responsible persons at one of the museums in the state. Photographs are easier to obtain and even a "snapshot" may prove to be the crucial evidence for the occurrence of a bird in the state such as occurred with the Mountain Bluebird that was seen near Mason City in 1980. Unfortunately, many opportunities to photograph rare birds that have been caught, netted, killed on the road, or killed by hunters have been missed in the past. Banders should always have a camera available to substantiate rare nettings. Recording has been overlooked in the past as a means of obtaining tangible evidence. For example, obtaining a specimen or photograph of a Chuck-will's-widow is difficult, but recording its voice is easy.

Field Reports

SUMMER 1981

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Ia. 52240

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

Temperatures during the summer were normal to slightly cooler than normal. The rains of late May continued throughout the period. Water levels were high with little exposed mud flats for returning shorebirds.

GENERAL TRENDS

There were few lingering waterfowl. Shorebird numbers were down, but there were a few late spring and early fall records. There were more reports than usual on flycatchers and warblers.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

There were no accidentals reported other than Ringed Turtle Dove, a species

not yet accepted for Iowa. First definitive evidence for nesting was reported for two species: Western Grebe and Yellow-throated Warbler. Other nesting species of considerable note were Eared Grebe and King Rail. There were several other unusual birds for summer but no definitive evidence of nesting: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Eared Grebe: This species does not normally nest in Iowa, but on 28 Jul, 25 adults and 25 young were at Eagle L., Emmet Co. (Larry Knopf fide JD). Two in breeding plumage were at Little Clear L. on 19 Jul (WJ fide RC).

Western Grebe: There was a late report of 2 at Mill Creek P., O'Brien Co., on 25 May (Mark Phelps fide DH) and 2 were at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 1 Jun (DH). It was thought that the latter pair might be nesting and, on 29 Jun, 2 adults were seen feeding 4 half grown young (TK). This is the first definite evidence of this species breeding in Iowa. Another Western Grebe was seen at Swan L., Dickinson Co., on 14 Jul (HZ).

Pied-billed Grebe: 7 nests were found at the power plant ponds s. of Council Bluffs (BW).

Double-crested Cormorant: 2 were at DeSoto NWR on 27 Jul (TB et al).

Great Blue Heron: There were 43 nests with young at Rathbun Res. (CS). On 31 Jul there were 35 at Red Rock Res. but no evidence of nesting. Small numbers were seen at other localities.

Cattle Egret: Singles were seen in n. e. Mills Co. on 24 Jun and 13 Jul (Howard Wilson fide BW, BW). These summer dates are unusual for this species which is usually seen in spring and fall.

Great Egret: 1 was at Dan Greene S. on 3 Jun (JD).

Snowy Egret: 1 was at Lock 15, Davenport, on 28 Jul (PP).

Black-crowned Night Heron: This species is common in the lakes region of n. w. Iowa. Singles were also reported from Dudgeon P. on 5 Jul (RMy) and Waubesa SP on 25 Jun (BW).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 2 were at Searsboro, Poweshiek Co., on 2 Jun (DK); 1 at Trumbull L. on 1 Jul (Bob Moats fide DH); and 1 immature in town at Pocahontas on 3 Jul (+RC).

Least Bittern: There were 2 nests at Dewey's Pasture (RJ fide JD). A female on a nest with three young on 26, 30 Jun at West Hottes L. refused to leave even when approached by a hand within several inches (DH, TK). Other sightings were 2 at Montezuma on 9 Jun (DK) and 6 at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM).

American Bittern: 2 nests were found at Dewey's Pasture in Jun (RJ fide JD). Other sightings were at Sweet M. on 5, 26 Jul and Silver L., Dickinson Co., on 13 Jul.

Snow Goose: A lone bird at DeSoto NWR on 26 Jul was said to have been present for two weeks (TB).

Canada Goose: Good nesting success continues in n. w. Iowa (JD).

Green-winged Teal: 1 was at Dan Greene S. on 19 Jun (JD).

Cinnamon Teal: a photograph was received of the spring bird first seen at Saylorville Res. on 8 Apr and present for 3½ weeks (SR).

Common Pintail: 1 was at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 29 Jun (TK).

Canvasback: A female with 7 young was at Garlock S., Dickinson Co., on 23 Jun (DH). One was at Kettleton Hogsback A. on 15 Jul (HZ).

Ring-necked Duck: 1 was at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM).

Lesser Scaup: Singles were seen at Eagle L., Emmet Co., on 4 Jun (JD) and IPL Settling Ponds on 9 Jul (TB et al).

Hooded Merganser: Females were seen at Lylah's M., Howard Co., on 21 Jun (FM, RH) and IPL Settling Ponds on 7 Jul (BP, LP).

Ruddy Duck: 2 were at Lylah's M. on 21 Jun (FM, RH).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

Turkey Vulture: A nest with 2 young was found in a barn near Seymour on 18 Jun (CS). Concentrations of 40 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (JSan) and 24 at Ledges SP on 2 Jun (HZ).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 at Amana on 23 Jun was identified by small size and fast flight (CB).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 was reported from Yellow River F. on 27 Jun (DK) and another from central Allamakee Co. on 3 Jul (JSb).

Red-tailed Hawk: 6 nests were found in Cherokee Co. (DBi).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was at Sweet M. on 26 Jul (FM).

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 was in Poweshiek Co. on 11 Jun and 2 at Yellow River F. on 27 Jun (DK).

Swainson's Hawk: A pair used the same nest for the fourth year in a row in Osceola Co. (DBi). Other reports were from Emmet Co. on 4 Jun (JD, RJ), Chickasaw Co. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau), Fayette Co. on 14 Jul (JSb) and Goldfield on 31 Jul (RC).

American Kestrel: Many were present in Davenport (PP) and 11 were seen w. of Hudson, Grundy Co., on 26 Jul (RMy).

Ruffed Grouse: 1 was at Shimek F. on 7 Jun (DK).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

King Rail: An adult with 2 young was photographed at Dewey's Pasture on 22 Jun (RJ fide JD). Perhaps there is still some hope for this species in Iowa.

Sora: 1 was at Sweet M. on 6 Jul (RMy).

Common Gallinule: 1 was at Little Clear L. on 19 Jul (RC).

Lesser Golden Plover: 8 at Sweet M. on 26 Jul (FM) were the third earliest date for this species.

Upland Sandpiper: An increase was noted in Wayne Co. where they were said to be fairly common (CS).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 was seen on 26 Jul w. of Hudson, Grundy Co. (RMy) for the second earliest fall date.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 was in Dickinson Co. on 1 Jul (TK) to tie the third earliest date.

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 in Plymouth Co. on 29 Jun (TK) tie the third earliest date. Singles were at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM) and Mills Co. on 13 Jul (BWi).

Willet: 14 on the Missouri R. at Wilson Island SP on 28 Jun (TK) represent the earliest fall date. Singles were seen at IPL Settling Ponds on 6, 9 Jul (BP, LP).

Spotted Sandpiper: A large concentration of 17 were at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM).

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 were at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau) and 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM).

American Woodcock: 1 at Willow S. on 26 Jun (BWi).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30 were still at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM), the second latest spring date.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM), also the second latest spring date.

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 were at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM), the latest spring date on record.

Dunlin: 1 was at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau), the second latest date.

Ring-billed Gull: 20 were still at Dan Greene S. on 3 Jun and 8 were at Trumbull L. on 5 Jun (JD).

Franklin's Gull: 81 were at Dan Greene S. on 3 Jun (JD).

Forester's Tern: Egg laying was just underway at several nests on West Hottes L., Dickinson Co., on 30 Jun (TK, DH). The nesting colony had more Forster's than Black Terns. On Jul 26 there were 6 Forster's Terns at DeSoto NWR (TB et al).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 1 was on a nest on the early date of 31 Mar at Seymour (CS).

Ringed Turtle Dove: There were undocumented reports of Ringed Turtle Dove from Clinton in May (Mrs. Van Nieuwenhuyse) and Bettendorf one on 12 Jun (W. Miller fide PP).

Chuck-will's-widow: 2 were near the Ranger Station at Shimek F. on 13 Jun (FM) and 3-5 were at Waubonsie SP on 25, 27 Jun (BWi, FM).

Whip-poor-will: A nest with 2 young was found at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (DK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: There were more reports than usual. Many were at Hamburg (IG). Koenig saw 13 during the period, 5 near Marquette on 21 Jun.

Others were seen at Cherokee (DBi), Shimek F. (FM), and Volga L. (FM).

Belted Kingfisher: Numbers were increased at Waterloo (FM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 were at Pikes Peak SP on 14 Jun (DK) and a pair was at Stone P., Sioux City, in early Jun (RSi fide TK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

Western Kingbird: All reports were from counties on the western border with 15 seen on 29 Jun from DeSoto NWR to Gitchie Manitou SP (TK).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One was reported from Saylerville Dam on 8 Jun (SR).

Eastern Phoebe: 7 were at Marquette on 21 Jun (DK). Singles were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP and Shimek F. (JSan).

Say's Phoebe: A family of 4 were photographed and recorded near the Eldon Bryant farm in w. Plymouth Co. on 29 Jun (TK). At present there are only one or two nesting sites in this area (EB fide TK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 was identified by sight and song at Shimek F. on 7 Jun (DK).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was at Amana woods on 25 Jun (CB). The ones reported from n. e. Mills Co. on 28, 29 May in the Spring Report were Alder not Acadian Flycatchers (BWi).

Willow Flycatcher: This species was widely reported from many areas of the state.

Alder Flycatcher: 2 were heard at Shimek F. on 13 Jun (FM) and 1 was heard at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 12 Jul (+JSan). These sightings in s. e. Iowa do not fit the concept of this being a northern species.

Least Flycatcher: 2 adults and 3 fledglings were at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (+FM); 5 were near Marquette on 21 Jun (DK); and several were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 28 Jun (JSan).

Purple Martin: There were 10 colonies in the Elkhart area with 40 pairs in one colony (DMos). At L. Manawa on 20 Jul, 206 were seen in one tree (BWi).

Brown Creeper: 1 was n. of Keosauqua on 19 Jun (JSan).

Sedge Wren: 25 were at Hayden Prairie and Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau).

Northern Mockingbird: A nest with 4 young was found near Searsboro, Poweshiek Co., on 27 May (DK). One was in Plymouth Co. on 20 Jun (LF) and another at Shimek F. on 27 Jun (JSan).

Veery: 11 were at White Pine Hollow on 20 Jun (DK). One of a pair sang after hearing a tape of its call in the Amana woods on 27 Jun (CB). Other locations were Yellow River F. (DK) and Ledges SP (HZ).

Eastern Bluebird: There were 21 nests in the Elkhart area (DMos). Scattered other reports suggest that Bluebirds are holding their own.

Loggerhead Shrike: It looks like shrikes are making a recovery from the years when they disappeared as nesters in many areas. Five pair were seen in Poweshiek Co. (DK), three pair in Fayette Co. (JSb), and several in Story and Boone Cos. (PM, HZ).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: Reports from early and mid-Jun were from Shimek F. (FM), Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DK) and Montezuma (DK).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 was singing at Cherokee on 27 Jun (DBi).

Black-and-white Warbler: I don't know how to interpret the three sightings of this species in Iowa in summer. Are they migrants or possible nesters? Singles were seen at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (DK, JSan), n. of Waubonsie SP on 13 Jun (RMy), and in Iowa City on 19 Jul (JF).

Prothonotary Warbler: 2 were at Riverton WA on 27 Jun (FM) and 1 at Dudgeon P. on 5 Jul (RMy).

Worm-eating Warbler: Sightings were at Shimek F. on 7 Jun (DK) and Amana woods on 21 Jun (+CB).

Blue-winged Warbler: June sightings were from Shimek F., Lacey-Keosauqua SP, n. of Marquette, and Yellow River F. (DK, FM). This regular summer resident may be on the decline. It would be useful to search for other nesting localities next year.

Tennessee Warbler: A singing bird near Decorah, Allamakee Co. on 3 Jul (JSb) was quite unusual.

Northern Parula Warbler: This species appears to be a summer resident in the Lacey-Keosauqua SP area (DK, FM, JSan) but has not been reported from other areas of the state.

Yellow Warbler: There are two encouraging reports: 20 nests found in a short time at Trumbull L. and Smith's S. (JD) and 49 individuals n. of Marquette on 21 Jun (DK).

Cerulean Warbler: 10-12 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JSan).

Yellow-throated Warbler: A nest with young at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (DK) is the first nesting record for this species in Iowa and a recording made n. of Keosauqua at Roberts Riverside Park on 1 Jun (TK) is the first tangible evidence (There are no specimens or photographs). The latest date was 19 Jul n. of Keosauqua (JSan).

Louisiana Waterthrush: A pair were feeding small fledglings at Shimek F. on 13 Jun (FM). Seven were noted at White Pine Hollow on 20 Jun (DK). Other locations were Lacey-Keosauqua SP and Pikes Peak SP (DK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Locations of sightings were Shimek F. (DK, FM), Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DK), Pleasantville (RT), Poweshiek Co. (DK), Dudgeon P. (FM, RMy), and Marquette (DK).

Canada Warbler: An exciting find was 3 singing males at White Pine Hollow on 20 Jun (DK). This apparently is the first summer record for this species.

American Redstart: 41 were counted n. of Marquette on 21 Jun (DK).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Orchard Oriole: 2 adults and 2 young were noted at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 19 Jul (HZ). In Poweshiek Co., 8 males were located (DK). There were 4 sightings in n. e. Iowa (JSb). Other locations were Pleasantville (RT) and McFarland P., Story Co. (HZ).

Summer Tanager: A first year male was singing on 1 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (TK). Other sightings were n. of Keosauqua on 14 Jun (JSan) and Waubonsie

SP on 13 and 27 Jun (RMy, FM).

Blue Grosbeak: Reports were from Hospers, Sioux Co. (DBi), w. Plymouth Co. (LF), Willow S., Mills Co. (BWi), and Fremont Co. (RMy, FM). Eldon Bryant told me that there are about 1 pair per square mile in his area e. of Akron, Plymouth Co. I saw 5 there in a few hours on 29 Jun (TK).

Pine Siskin: 1 was late in w. Plymouth Co. on 8 Jun (LF).

Savannah Sparrow: 2 in Fremont Co. on 27 Jun were considered unusual (FM, RSi).

Henslow's Sparrow: Hayden Prairie remains the only known regular location for this species. One was photographed and recorded there on 5 Jun (TK, TStau).



Henslow's Sparrow at Hayden Prairie on 5 June 1981.

Photo by T. H. Kent

Lark Sparrow: A nest with nearly fledged young was found in n. e. Mills Co. on 9 Jul (BWi). Eleven, mostly juveniles, were there on 30 Jul (BWi). One was at Ledges SP on 22 Jun (HZ).

Clay-colored Sparrow: A singing bird was identified at Volga L. on 11 and 26 Jul (+RMy, FM). This is apparently only the second summer record for this species.

+ — documented

CONTRIBUTORS

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OTHER OBSERVERS

Don Bray (TB); Wallace Jardine (RC); Rex Johnson (JD); Jim Kovanda (TB); Sandy Kovanda (TK); Loren Padelford (BP); Jody Sandrock (JSan); Tom Staudt (TB); Ross Silcock (TK, FM).

COMMENTS

The summer season is the purest of the seasons. It encompasses two months in the heart of the nesting period. The only significant migration is for shorebirds at the beginning and end of the period, and migrating shorebirds are easily distinguished from the few resident species in this group. There are a few summer stragglers, but not as many as during the winter season.

The major goal of the summer report is to capture more knowledge of breeding birds in Iowa. Gathering this information is not as easy, and perhaps not as much fun for many, as looking for migrants. After a busy spring of birding, it is hard to push oneself into the marsh or fight through the underbrush and mosquitos of the deep woods to look for the uncommon and rare breeding birds. Breeding Bird Surveys are easier and provide valuable data on open country birds and the more common species. As I see it, the information that is most lacking on breeding birds in Iowa relates to the distribution and frequency of uncommon nesters, especially those in marshy and deep woods habitats.

This summer most of the regular reporters managed to get in some birding and provided new data on nesting species. Most exciting were the addition of Western Grebe and Yellow-throated Warbler to the list of birds that have definitely nested in Iowa and the first evidence of King Rail nesting in Iowa in many years. Perhaps more significant were the many observations of *Empidonax* flycatchers and warblers. In the past few years it has become evident that Least Flycatcher, Veery, and Yellow-throated Warbler regularly nest in Iowa. Will someone find the nest of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Canada Warbler or Clay-colored Sparrow?

We have a lot to learn about breeding birds in Iowa. We need to undertake the tedious task of finding nests of uncommon birds in specialized habitats and gathering information on nesting and departure dates. I commend those who have provided so much data this summer during the "slow" season.

General Notes

A Yellow-throated Warbler Nest in Iowa — On June 6, 1981 I observed a nest of the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) while birding in Lacy-Keosauqua State Park. The nest was placed on a small horizontal branch of a sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) approximately fifty feet from the ground and four feet out from the main trunk of the tree. I observed at least one young in the nest and there may have been more, but the exact number could not be determined from the ground. Both the male and female took part in feeding the young.

The Yellow-throated Warbler is a southern bird which has apparently extended its range into Iowa since the early 1900s. Anderson (1907) knew of only one Iowa record. DuMont (1934) listed several records and considered it a fairly rare summer resident in the south, but did not list any breeding records. Grant (1963) recorded it as a rare summer resident in the southeast. Brown (1971) listed it as being accidental. There were no published Iowa records of the Yellow-throated Warbler from 1931 to 1969, when one was observed in Ledges State Park (Brooke, 1969). It has been reported almost every year since 1969.

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- Anderson, R. M. 1907. The birds of Iowa. *Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci.* 11:125-417.
Brooke, M. 1969. Yellow-throated Warbler in Ledges State Park. *Iowa Bird Life* 39:64.
Brown, W. H. 1971. An Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa. *Iowa State Jour. Sci.*

45:387-469.

DuMont, P. A. 1934, A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa. *Iowa Stud. Nat. Hist.* 15(5):1-171.

Grant, M. L. 1963. A Checklist of Iowa Birds, Coded with Status Symbols. *Iowa Bird Life* 33:50-62. DARWIN KOENIG, Box 389, Montezuma, Iowa 50171.

Western Grebe Breeding in Osceola County — At 8:00 p.m. on June 29, 1981 I stopped at Rush Lake, Osceola County, to look for a pair of Western Grebes that had been seen there on June 2 by Doug Harr. I did not see them at first, but as I was preparing to leave I scanned the lake once more and saw some light colored birds near the far shore. With a 20 power telescope I noted two adult and four half sized grebes. The adults were about twice the size of nearby Pied-billed Grebes. They were black on the cap, back of the neck and back, and white on the lower face, front of the neck, breast and belly. The bill was long, straight and heavy. The black of the head appeared to include the eye. The young were quite light colored. One raised a short stubby wing which was less than six inches long. The adults were diving and stayed above water just long enough to feed the young. As far as I am aware, this is the first definite evidence of Western Grebe breeding in Iowa. T. H. KENT, 211 Richard Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Turkey Vulture Nest in Southern Iowa — On May 10 the Turk family who live 5 miles south of Seymour noticed two Turkey Vultures on the roof of a barn where they store machinery — the rest of the homestead is deserted. After noticing the vultures there consistently each time they went for machinery, they made a thorough search and discovered two young inside a barrel on the barn floor. The barrel was covered with hay but had two entrances beside an opening on top through which we were able to observe them by removing the hay each time we went. We continued to visit them, and no matter how quietly we approached they would be hidden somewhere on the ground floor of the barn. When we approached their hiding place, they began hissing. Ronald Turk lifted one from his hiding place so we could take a picture. The bird regurgitated some very smelly food, and we didn't linger long after taking the picture. This was July 30, and I'm guessing the bird was about 8 weeks old — his wings developed, fully feathered except for the down on his neck and underparts. They left the nest Aug. 11 when one was observed sitting on top of the barn. CHARLOTTE SCOTT, Seymour, Iowa.

Eastern Iowa Lark Bunting — On May 13, 1981 we were birding in the Sweet Marsh area and came upon a male Lark Bunting. The bird was feeding on dandelions along side of a gravel road running North and South one mile East of Sweet Marsh. We observed the all black bird with large white wing patches for a short time and took several photographs of it before it flew out of sight over a hill to the East onto private property. FRANCIS L. MOORE, 264 Western Avenue, Waterloo, Ia. and ROBERT K. MYERS, 1236 Sylvia Avenue, Waterloo, Ia.

Whimbrel in Southwest Iowa — About 6:00 p.m. on May 19, 1981 at Willow Slough Public Hunting Area, Mills County, I noticed a large shorebird about 100 feet directly south of my location on the north dike. It was foraging on the mud at the edge of the drying pond, alone except for a Wilson's Phalarope. The large bird had a markedly decurved bill and was grayish tan, with a dull, watercolor-like pattern on its back. The head was strongly patterned: dark line through the eye, white above that, the entire crown broadly dark except a narrow white line through the center. The legs appeared greenish through the 20x lens of the telescope, and gray through the 40x lens. The bird's primaries were all dark and when it stretched its wings the underwing coverts were checked brown and a darker color. The tail was dully barred with brown. The rather tame bird continued feeding the five minutes or so I watched it.

The large size, color, and decurved bill indicate this bird is a curlew. The contrasting head pattern, long bill with a pronounced curve, and the checkered brown underwing pattern indicate it is a Whimbrel, and eliminate the Long-billed and Eskimo Curlews which are, in any case, much less likely here.

Although Whimbrels are more common on the beaches of the Oregon coast, where I became familiar with them, there are apparently several previous Iowa records. I consulted Petersen's new **Field Guide to the Birds** while observing this bird, to be sure I could eliminate the Eskimo Curlew. Unfortunately, I certainly could. BARBARA L. WILSON, Rt. 1, Box 41, Hastings, Iowa 51540.

Orange-shafted Flicker in Lyon County -- In early December 1980, my wife and I realized one of the three Common Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) regularly visiting our suet feeder at Larchwood, in northwestern Lyon County, was very obviously a hybrid of the red-shafted and yellow-shafted races. The first characteristic we recognized was a prominent orange color on undersurfaces of wings and tail and in the feather shafts. Closer observation revealed that this male's mustache graded from mostly red at the base of the bill to mostly black on the cheek. Pure races of the Common Flicker exhibit an all-black mustache on the yellow-shafted males and an all-red mustache on the red-shafted males. Our particular specimen did have a red nape, normally seen only on the yellow-shafted birds.

On the January 3, 1981, I found this same flicker suffering an apparent minor wing injury and unable to fly. We captured him and found his wing unbroken, but the body was somewhat emaciated. We attempted rehabilitation, but after about eight days the bird finally died. I then photographed the hybrid characteristics of the body and sent it on to Jim Dinsmore for use in the Iowa State University study collection. -- DOUGLAS HARR, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Box 65, Larchwood.

Book Reviews

Endangered Birds of the World -- Warren B. King, compiler -- Smithsonian Inst. Press, Wash., D.C. -- 624 pp. -- \$19.95, paperbound -- \$8.95.

This is the latest edition of the I. C. B. P. Red Data Book for birds. It is aimed at providing encapsulated information pertinent to the conservation of threatened birds throughout the world. Covering 437 species and subspecies it classifies them as "endangered", "vulnerable", "rare", "indeterminate", or "out of danger". Each account includes a summary of what is known of status, distribution, population size and trend, habitat, measures to conserve and references. This volume brings together material published in loose-leaf form in 1978 and 1979. It should prove an indispensable reference for anyone concerned with endangered birds. ed.

Birds of a Feather, Unpublished Letters of W. H. Hudson -- Dennis Shrubbsall, ed. -- U. S. rep., Buteo Books, Vermillion, S. D. -- 108 p., 10 black-and-white drawings -- 1981 -- \$16.00.

W. H. Hudson is probably the best known ornithologist who was also an English country writer. He wrote many important books and papers on South American birds. Part of this collection of letters was written over a sixteen year period, 1906-1922, to John Harding. The remainder were written between 1896-1904 to two ladies, Mrs. Emma Hubbard and Mrs. Eliza Phillips. They are all primarily about birds and give some insight into an author who was very meticulous in his previously published writings. ed.

Basil Ede's Birds -- Robert Dougall & Basil Ede -- Van Nostrand-Reinhold, N. Y. -- 128 pp., 70 color plates -- 1981 -- \$24.95.

Ede is considered one of the two or three top bird artists in England and one of the top five in the world. This book includes portraits of common garden and country birds of Europe along with some water birds. The only fault in my eyes is the reproduction of several birds larger than life-size. The printing is excellent and while the price seems high it reflects ever increasing costs. This book will be appreciated by all who enjoy high quality artwork. ed.

A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi, second edition -- Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. -- Oxford Univ. Press, N. Y. -- 783 pp., many line drawings -- 1981 -- \$25.00.

First published in 1953, this edition is a complete update but Alaska and Hawaii are still omitted. Gone are the listings of bird collections and museums, but more areas are covered. Twenty-four pages are devoted to Iowa but half of the ten top birding "hot spots" are not included. Despite this type of shortcoming most of the best known spots are covered. Much input was received from birders throughout the area. It is a good source for a wide area and serious birders will want to add it to their libraries. ed.

Carving Duck Decoys -- Harry V. Shourds & Anothony Hillman -- Dover Publications, Inc., N. Y. -- 70 p., 8 color photos, 16 templates -- 1981 -- paperbound -- \$4.25.

This book is a complete manual for making hollow wooden duck decoys for sixteen species. It also includes advice on painting and finishing as well as details of the head. It provides all that is needed for making your own shooting block decoys. ed.

Hawaiian Bird Life, 2nd edition -- Andrew J. Berger -- University Presses of Hawaii, Honolulu -- 260 p., 67 color plates, 137 black-and-white photos -- 1981 -- \$29.95.

Much effort has been expended on the study of Hawaiian birds in the nine years since the first edition of this book appeared. On the plus side a new endemic genus was discovered in 1974 and the endangered species act applies to many endemics resulting in many studies. On the other side many new exotics have become established. It is a good update and it is nice to see this done promptly. ed.

Uncommon Birds in New Zealand -- Janet Marshall, T. C. Kinsely, C. J. R. Robertson -- Charels E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt. -- 95 p., 40 color plates -- 1980 -- spiral and boards -- \$7.50.

The high quality of the illustrations in the earlier volumes on common birds is maintained. Since these are the uncommon birds we find some North American birds such as the Red Knot, S. Polar Skua, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, and Little Tern. The three volumes in this series would be convenient for tourists visiting these islands. ed.

The Birdwatcher's A-Z -- Alan J. Richards -- David & Charles, Inc., North Pomfret, Vt. -- 328 p., 120 color and 280 b. & w. illus. -- 1980 -- \$45.00.

This is an interesting and well done book, much better than **The Illustrated Bird Watcher's Dictionary**. The main drawbacks are the price and the fact it is a British book written for a British birder. It brings together a large selection of birdwatching jargon as well as ornithological terminology and "slang" expressions. It would be a good book for the avid birder to get from the library if you can locate one which boasts a copy. ed.

Diets for Birds in Captivity -- Kenton C. & Alice M. Lint -- Sterling Publ. Co., N.Y. -- 222 p. -- 1981 -- \$50.00.

There has not previously been a comprehensive source of diet information for captive birds. There is a chapter for each order with sections covering most families. Latin names for both the birds and the food are included. Kenton Lint was

Curator of Birds at the San Diego Zoo for nearly thirty years. This book will be useful for zoo personnel and those who work with the rehabilitation of injured birds. ed.

Finding Birds Around the World -- Peter Alden and John Gooders -- Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston -- 683 p., 115 maps -- 1981 -- \$17.95.

The volume marks the first attempt to provide specific information for birding throughout the world. The need to limit the book to 111 areas has meant the deletion of some good areas. However it is a beginning and includes a vast amount of information.

Coverage includes 26 areas in North America, 22 in South America, 11 in Europe, 17 in Africa, 19 in Asia proper and 16 in Australia and the Pacific Islands. No area in Russia is covered. The format starts with a general description of the better birds and locations. A map or series of maps spots key localities and a checklist presents all species to be expected with some seasonal and status notations. I have been to thirty of the locations and wish I could have had this book with me. I am sure my life list would be higher if the book had been available 12 years ago. ed.

The Country Journal Book of Birding and Bird Attraction -- Alan Pistoreus -- W. W. Norton & Co., NY -- 274 p., many line drawings -- 1981 -- \$15.95.

This book sounds, from the title, like a very similar treatment to that of Kress reviewed above. However it is much more of a book for enjoyable background reading than a reference book like Kress' effort. Topics covered include arrival times, winter feeding, Christmas count, establishing habitat, big days, housing, water and mapping breeding territories. ed.

The Bird Identification Calendar -- illus by John Sill -- The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT -- 32 p., 27 color illus -- 1981 -- \$6.95.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society has again directed the preparation of a beautiful bird calendar. The center contains a 3 page section on endangered species and a particularly fine Bachman's Warbler painting. This is a calendar any birder would enjoy and keep for future reference. ed.

John Gould's Birds -- A & W Publishers, NY -- 240 p., 367 color illus. -- 1981 -- \$39.95 until 1-1-82, then \$50.00.

This book makes available for the first time Gould's Birds of Great Britain originally published between 1862 and 1873 in five volumes. Most of the plates as reproduced in a reduced size, about 5" by 7", two on a page. The 25 pages of text is a brief biography of Gould. The quality of the reproduction is excellent and the paper is quite heavy. Anyone who appreciates fine bird art will be happy to have this Gould collection in their library. ed.

Birds of Southern California -- Status and Distribution -- Kimball Garrett and Joh Dunn -- Los Angeles Audubon Society -- 408 p., many line drawings & maps -- 1981 -- \$18.95.

The status and distribution of birds in Southern California has probably been studied more intensively by a larger number of well qualified observers in recent years than any other similar sized geographic area. The species accounts in this book update Grinnell & Miller's work and include all records up to August 1980 with some additions through March, 1981. For each species breeding range, habitats, seasonal movements and unusual records are included. Some breeding ranges are mapped. A bar graph section summarizes season and status with habitat notation. This is a very well assembled and produced book and serves a fine goal for other localities. ed.